

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, DA, CA, GL

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY GREENLAND MINISTER HANSEN

REF: COPENHAGEN 0212 AND 0261 AND SCHALLER/RUSHING TELECON

1. MINISTER FOR GREENLAND AFFAIRS JORGEN PEDER HANSEN DISCUSSED HIS WASHINGTON VISIT DURING LUNCH YESTERDAY WITH AMBASSADOR. IT APPEARS THAT IN ADDITION TO MINISTER AND HIS ASSISTANT, SVEN ADSERSEN, TWO GREENLANDERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF GREENLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL ALSO GO ALONG. THEY ARE JONATHAN MOTZFELDT, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AND A LUTHERAN MINISTER IN GREENLAND, AND NIELS KARLO HEILMANN, CHAIRMAN OF THE GREENLAND FISHERIES UNION. MOTZFELDT SPEAKS DANISH AND POSSIBLY SOME ENGLISH BUT HEILMANN SPEAKS NEITHER LANGUAGE. MOTZFELDT WILL TRANSLATE FOR HIM FROM ESKIMO.

2. THE DANES SAY THAT THEIR PURPOSE IN BRINGING THE TWO GREENLANDERS ALONG IS TO SHOW THEM THAT DANISH GOVERNMENT IS DOING ITS BEST TO INCREASE THE SALMON QUOTA FOR GREENLAND. HANSEN WILL ATTEMPT TO SHOW USG AUTHORITIES THAT WHILE TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR GREENLAND IS INSIGNIFICANT IN WORLD TERMS, IT IS NEVERTHELESS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE GREENLAND FISHERMEN. HE EXPLAINED THIS IN CONTEXT OF DANISH HOME RULE WHICH ENVISAGES SUPPORT TO GREENLAND'S PRINCIPAL INDUSTRY -- FISHING. AMBASSADOR TOLD HANSEN, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE USG WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYMPATHETIC TO PLIGHT OF GREENLAND FISHERMEN, THE SALMON

QUOTAS WERE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS AND THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE HOPE THAT THE QUOTA COULD BE CHANGED. HE SADI THAT EXPERTS ON FISHING QUOTAS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE INTERESTED TO HEAR WHAT THE MINISTER HAD TO SAY BUT HE STRESSED THAT HANSEN SHOULD NOT EXPECT ANY SUDDEN CHANGES IN US POSITION.

3. HANSEN AND ADSERSEN CONFIRMED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR FOR THEIR TRIP, HENNING SVANHOLT, HAD SENT TELEX TO DANISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON JAN. 26 GIVING FULL AUTHORIZATION TO COOPERATE WITH DEPT. IN PLANNING VISIT AND ENDORSING PROGRAM SENT IN COPENHAGEN 0212 WHICH WAS WORKED OUT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GREENLAND MINISTRY. ADSERSEN AND SVANHOLT POINTED OUT THAT TWO GREENLANDERS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN FISHING DISCUSSIONS BUT NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE INVITED TO ATTEND TALKS IN DOD. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF HANSEN'S PARTY, AND IT MAY WELL BE ADVISABLE TO FIT THEM INTO AS MANY ACTIVITIES AS POSSIBLE. SUGGEST THIS BE LEFT UP TO DANISH EMBASSY.

4. AS SOON AS DEPT. HAS COORDINATED SUGGESTED PROGRAM WITH DANISH EMBASSY, REQUEST THAT WE BE NOTIFIED, SO THAT WE CAN PASS PROGRAM ON TO HANSEN. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT ALTHOUGH HANSEN IS COMING PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS FISHING QUOTA, THIS COULD BE BEGINNING OF DIALOGUE WITH DENMARK ABOUT GREENLAND'S FUTURE. INASMUCH AS USG REPLY ON FISHING QUOTA IS LIKELY TO BE NEGATIVE, IT SEEMS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAT HANSEN BE MADE AWARE OF USG DESIRE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE TO THE DANISH GOVT. IN OTHER FIELDS AFFECTING GREENLAND.

5. EMBASSY WILL BE REPORTING BY SEPTTEL PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON GREENLAND'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS THEY RELATE TO GREENLAND'S FUTURE.
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